

Question/Comment #1

"Savannah River has published a synopsis to recompet the Protective Force Security Services under draft solicitation no. DE-RP30-08CC60025. It is my understanding that no small business role has been identified for this solicitation. How might we encourage the government to consider either setting aside some portion of the scope for small business participation or including evaluation criteria for small business participation?"

Answer #1

DOE is committed to having as much small business participation as possible for all of its procurements. Even though the decision was made not to set-aside the Savannah River Protective Force Security Services procurement for small business, DOE did include the evaluation of small business participation in the draft solicitation. For instance, the solicitation contains a provision that requires each large business offeror to submit an acceptable small business subcontracting plan with their proposal. The provision strongly encourages each large business offeror to establish subcontracting goals that afford small businesses with the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in contract performance consistent with efficient performance. The solicitation also states that the incumbent contractor's small business subcontracting goals and actual achievements will be considered as an indicator of minimum practicable expected performance when evaluating a large business offeror's proposed small business subcontracting plan. As detailed in the following tables, these benchmark goals and achievements provide for a substantial amount of work to be performed by small businesses under the resulting procurement. Note: The percentage specified is the contract's percentage of total subcontracted dollars.

DOE's small business subcontracting goals are as follows:

Small business concerns	46.4%
Small disadvantaged business concerns	5.0%
Women-owned small business concerns	5.0%
HUB-Zone small business concerns	5.0%
Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns	5.0%

The incumbent contractor's small business subcontracting achievements for the current Savannah River Protective Force Security Services contract are as follows:

	FY 2005		FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%
Small:	\$4,313,971	80.6%	\$4,137,189	71.2%	\$5,353,814	76.7%
Large:	\$1,038,603	19.4%	\$1,670,070	28.8%	\$1,630,280	23.3%
W/O:	\$972,630	18.2%	\$1,748,650	30.1%	\$1,636,112	23.4%
D/B:	\$496,279	9.3%	\$745,603	12.8%	\$675,375	9.7%
L/Surp:	\$289,667	5.4%	\$133,743	2.3%	\$96,158	1.4%
Hubzone:	\$370,731	6.9%	\$377,652	6.5%	\$188,266	2.7%
Veteran:	\$408,779	7.6%	\$602,518	10.4%	\$1,707,678	24.5%
Service Disabled:	\$25,443	0.5%	\$39,958	0.7%	\$192,166	2.8%
8A	\$408,931	7.6%	\$671,900	11.6%	\$645,403	9.2%
Total Awards:	\$5,352,574		\$5,807,259		\$6,984,094	

The incumbent contractor's subcontracting goals for the period beginning October 1, 2007, and ending September 30, 2008 are as follows:

Small business concerns	65%	\$5,011,000
Small disadvantaged business concerns	10%	\$770,000
Women-owned small business concerns	15%	\$1,156,000
Veteran-owned business concerns	3%	\$231,000

HUB-Zone small business concerns	3%	\$231,000
Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns	2%	\$154,000
Total:		\$7,709,000

In addition, the draft solicitation also contains a provision that requires both large and small business offerors to propose small disadvantaged business participation program targets that demonstrate a commitment to small disadvantaged business participation in any resulting contract. These proposed targets will be evaluated considering the extent of participation proposed in terms of the total value to the acquisition and the realism of the proposal.

Question/Comment #2

The CALEA Agency database reflects that 69 personnel were assigned to the SRS Special Operations Division at the time of the most recent CALEA re-accreditation in November 2007.

- (a) is this number (69) accurate and if so,
- (b) how many of these 69 personnel are currently assigned as South Carolina Constables or Criminal Investigators?
- (c) Are any of the incumbent contractor personnel accredited by CALEA considered as "prescribed" positions as defined in Section L.4.13?
- (d) If yes, how many of the 69 positions are "prescribed"?

Answer #2

Staffing numbers are fluid and subject to change for non-prescribed personnel. All information provided for non-prescribed personnel is for informational purposes only. Offerors must decide for themselves the numbers of non-prescribed personnel to propose and how to allocate these personnel among the areas of the Work Breakdown Structure of the Statement of Work. Offerors are instructed to use the information contained in Tables L.1 and L.2 for prescribed personnel, and all proposals will be evaluated based on the information in these two tables for prescribed personnel. Offerors will not have any flexibility in proposing the numbers of prescribed personnel or how to allocate these personnel among the areas of the Work Breakdown Structure of the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #3

- (a) What has been the frequency of travel of incumbent security contractor personnel, *outside of the United States*, during the past five calendar years (2003-2008)?
- (b) Is the requirement that the contractor assist DOE with the procurement of "local national security support in foreign locations" for the purpose of personnel security needs only, or is the contractor required to provide full scale armed protective forces for the security protection of Spent Nuclear Fuel shipments in foreign countries?
- (c) Who conducts the coordination of these activities with the foreign governments or local authorities?

Answer #3

There is currently no requirement for off-site foreign country security support for spent nuclear fuel shipments. This requirement has been deleted from the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #4

What is the current rate of pay for incumbent employees covered under the provisions of these Sections?

Answer #4

For non-prescribed personnel, as defined in Section L.4, Attachment 5 to Section L provides the average direct labor rates for six groupings of protective force personnel and eight groupings of administrative support personnel for Fiscal Year 2008. Table L.1 of Section L.5 provides a lump sum amount for prescribed personnel, as defined in Section L.4. In addition, the wage determination information in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) 2008-1944 is provided in Section J, Attachment E of the RFP.

Question/Comment #5

- (a) Is the successful contractor's local offsite office required to be regularly staffed and are the costs of maintaining an offsite location considered reimbursable expenses?
- (b) What is the current General Services Administration's rate for Class A office space in the local area, such as the DOE and Social Security Administration's office space in Aiken, SC?

Answer #5

- (a) The contractor will have the flexibility to decide staffing concerns in its proposed technical approach for this work. Any reasonable, allowable and allocable expenses that are incurred in the performance of the contractor's responsibilities under the contract are reimbursable.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the Offeror to acquire all information necessary to prepare a cost proposal.

Question/Comment #6

- (a) How many and which positions of the incumbent contractor's management team are considered "Key Personnel"?
- (b) Other than the most senior member of the proposed management team, are bidders allowed to propose a "Key Personnel" matrix or does DOE have specific position designations/requirements?

Answer #6

- (a) The Key Personnel in the current contract are designated in Clause H.21 entitled "Key Personnel (APR 1984)". The current contract is available in the Documents Library on the SRS Protective Force web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs> under "Wackenhut Contract General Information".
- (b) Pursuant to the Key Personnel technical evaluation factor, the Offeror will have the flexibility to designate any personnel as "Key" that it considers essential to the successful accomplishment of the work being performed under the contract. However, at a minimum, the individual responsible for the overall contract shall be designated as "Key".

Question/Comment #7

- (a) When will the EMCBC make available the Award Fee Determination Letters previously issued by the DOE Fee Determination Official for the seventeen (17) award fee periods of the existing security contract (October 1, 1999-March 31, 2008)? Previously, these official documents were available to the general public either on-line, through designated Government Reading Rooms, or through official press releases.
- (b) The Award Fee Determination letter dated December 5, 2000 (which was available online) reflects that the available fee for award Fee Period 00-2 was \$1,500,000. What was the available fee for the most recent award fee period ending on March 31, 2008?

Answer #7

Information pertaining to the incumbent contractor's award fee amounts is available on the Request for Proposals web site in the Documents Library under "Wackenhut Contract General Information". The web site address is <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs>.

Question/Comment #8

Relating to small businesses, will there be a portion of this procurement set-aside for small businesses or in lieu of that set-aside, will there be a requirement for the large business who responds to this procurement to provide an outline of small business program and/or their intent to designate portions of the contract to small businesses.

Answer #8

See Answer to Question/Comment #1

Question/Comment #9

Will audio/video of pre-solicitation presentation be made available?

Answer #9

Neither audio nor video of the pre-solicitation presentation will be made available. Information regarding the companies that attended the one-on-one sessions and the pre-solicitation conference is available on the Request for Proposals web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs/index.php> in the Pre-Solicitation Conference section. The script for the site tour and the pre-solicitation conference is also available on the web site in the Pre-Solicitation Conference section.

Question/Comment #10

What will be the expected release date of the RFP? What will be the turn-around time for the proposal?

Answer #10

DOE anticipates final solicitation release in September 2008 however this is an estimated time period and is subject to change. Offerors will be given 80 days after date of release to submit their proposals.

Question/Comment #11

What has been the percentage of award fee received by WSI over the previous three years, and what was the dollar amount of the awards?

Answer #11

See response to Question/Comment #7.

Question/Comment #12

There are 2 conflicting sections with regard to ISO 14001. Paragraph C.5.5.1 indicates that the Offerors Environmental Mgmt. System (EMS) must be in compliance with ISO 14001 Standards while section M.4, Evaluation Factor, indicates the Offeror must maintain ISO 14001 certification. Big difference, particularly in terms of cost. Which section is correct?

Answer #12

The contractor's program is required to address all aspects of ISO 14001, but ISO 14001 certification is not required. The Request for Proposals has been revised to indicate that only compliance and not certification is required.

Question/Comment #13

Why is Labor Relations Support included in the section which addresses the "Personal Property Management System?"

Answer #13

Labor Relations Support has been deleted from the paragraph entitled "Personal Property Management System" and placed in Paragraph C.5.5.3.2 entitled "Employee Management Programs".

Question/Comment #14

Pages J12-J18 of Attachment A are a replication of pages J-1 through the top of page J-7. We assume this replication is in error.

Answer #14

This was determined to be a replication and has been corrected.

Question/Comment #15

The Key Personnel Letter of Commitment requests proposed salary information, but the draft RFP also says that no cost information can be included in Volume II. Is it acceptable to just put a note that says "See cost proposal" on the commitment letter?

Answer #15

The Key Personnel Letter of Commitment has been revised and no longer requests salary information.

Question/Comment #16

The draft RFP requires that graphs, tables and spreadsheets must be in 10 points or larger font type. That is a little large for figures. Can we use 9 point for figures?

Answer #16

All graphs, tables and spreadsheets must be in 10 point or larger font.

Question/Comment #17

The draft RFP indicates foldouts shall not exceed 11 x 17 inches. Do foldouts count as a singles page or two pages?

Answer #17

Each side of a foldout is considered two (2) pages for purposes of determining the number of pages.

Question/Comment #18

The draft RFP requires a Table of Contents down to the paragraph title level. We assume this means down to the level of all numbered headers. Is that correct?

Answer #18

That is correct.

Question/Comment #19

We are asked to provide information on accidents with injuries that have occurred within the last five (5) years while the Offeror was responsible for providing security services. Clarification is needed here. Every recordable accident? Lost time accidents only? Total hours worked (i.e., exposure). Accidents by non-security personnel? This requirement may be interpreted several different ways.

Answer #19

Attachment 10 to Section L entitled "Worker Safety and Health Past Performance Form" has been added to the Request for Proposals. This form specifies the information that shall be provided.

Question/Comment #20

With regard to the Canine Section, are canines single purpose or dual purpose?

Answer #20

Some of the canines are used for both detection and patrol and are considered dual purpose. Offerors shall propose for this function based on the information contained in Section C.5.2.5.

Question/Comment #21

I would like to see if you can clarify the information in C.5.1.5. It states that the contractor should establish a full service Law Enforcement department and maintain a CALEA certification. CALEA certification is a time consuming process and could take 24 to 36 months based on CALEA standards. Will there be a grace period to allow the contractor to obtain CALEA Certification. If not, I believe only the current incumbent would qualify to bid the contract.

Answer #21

CALEA accreditation is important to SRS, and the Contractor, will be given a reasonable period of time to obtain CALEA accreditation. CALEA accreditation, or lack of this accreditation, should not represent a barrier or obstacle to any Offeror.

Question/Comment #22

Does the EMCBC plan on hosting another Savannah River Site visit at the time of the release of the Final RFP for the protective forces contract? The site visit on July 7, 2008 gave the appearance of shielding any of the protective forces security activities from the registered attendees/potential bidders. This was very unusual considering that all of the following protective force components were including in the slide show currently contained in the documents library: patrol boat, helicopter with the aerial firing platform, entry control x-ray machines, Central Alarm Stations, armored vehicles, firing ranges, Emergency Operations Center, Mobile Command Vehicle, law enforcement vehicles, etc.

Answer #22

DOE plans to host a second detailed site visit after releasing the final Request for Proposals and recommends that potential Offerors check the Request for Proposals web site for updates on when and how to attend this tour.

Question/Comment #23

The documents library contains a Paramilitary Security Services slide show, which is credited to the incumbent security contractor. All of the locations reflected in the slide show actually located on the Savannah River site? The bus tour did not include any areas which resembled the arid terrain contained in Slide #32.

Answer #23

The Paramilitary Security Services slide show has been removed from the SRS website. A majority of the photographs were taken at the Savannah River Site. See the response to Comment #22.

Question/Comment #24

I was disappointed that the briefers were not permitted to answer questions that did not pertain to the content of their briefings (which were largely, if not entirely, lifts from the solicitation). It would have been helpful to know the anticipated schedule for release of the RFP, expected turn around time, etc.

Answer #24

See response to Question/Comment #10.

Question/Comment #25

The site tour was helpful, but not much. Unless you knew what you were looking at, the description by the presenter was of very limited value. It was very unusual that no WSI-related activity was visible to the tour attendees (no ProForce patrolling at any of the facilities, no traffic enforcement units, no ability to see how many dogs were present at the canine facility, hanger doors closed at the heliport which denied a determination of the type of aircraft deployed there, no mention that we were passing WSI HQ, or the logistics/admin support facility, no visit to ATA/SATA, etc. etc.).

Answer #25

See response to Question/Comment #22.

Question/Comment #26

I thought a better balance could have been struck between reading the contents of the draft RFP, and telling/showing the attendees how the Protective Force performs its mission at the site.

Answer #26

See response to Question/Comment #22

Question/Comment #27

Page limitations on the Technical Volume at 100 pages are not adequate to address all the requirements listed in the RFP Section L and M for a project of this scope and magnitude.

Answer #27

The page limitation has been increased to 125 pages. Offerors must decide for themselves the level of detail to provide within the page limitation of 125 pages for the technical proposal to address this requirement. The page limit will present the same challenge to all Offerors.

Question/Comment #28

Requirements for experience and past performance on projects of similar size, scope, and complexity severely limit potential competition and emphasize the incumbent's competitive advantage primarily due to size.

Answer #28

Federal law and regulation requires Federal agencies to address the quality of the services sought in all best-value source selections through consideration of one or more non-cost evaluation factors such as past performance, compliance with solicitation requirements, technical excellence, management capability, personnel qualifications, and prior experience. See 10 U.S.C. 2305(a)(3)(A)(i), 41 U.S.C. 253a(c)(1)(A) and FAR 15.304(c)(2). Past performance must be evaluated in all source selections. *Id.*

Question/Comment #29

Performance bonding on a contract of this size is a large obstacle for small business participation even when assembling a joint venture.

Answer #29

DOE has determined that performance guarantees are necessary to meet its minimum requirements; these are not the same as performance bonds in that they require an entity to perform in place of another entity's default. DOE urges small businesses to enter into mentor or joint business relationships to expand their opportunities.

Question/Comment #30

Section L requires Offeror to address approaches, while Section M appears to evaluate more detailed programs and plans than a 100 page technical limitation would allow.

Answer #30

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #31

Technical and Management Proposal rating score is in double jeopardy of reduction due to costing content.

Answer #31

Award will be based on a best value determination which will include evaluation of technical and cost proposals as explained in Section M of the solicitation.

Question/Comment #32

Subcontracting goals identified in the draft RFP and website documents are very low, and there does not seem to be participation at the security task performance level.

Answer #32

See response to Question/Comment #1. Subcontracting goals represent only the minimum DOE requirements.

Question/Comment #33

Recommend delaying release of the final RFP until at least October 2008 to allow small and disadvantaged businesses to prepare potential teaming, partnership plans, and other preparations, to increase the potential for small and disadvantaged business participation.

Answer #33

See response to Question/Comment #1.

Question/Comment #34

Recommend increasing Technical Volume page limitations or limit the topic requirements to address within the Technical Volume.

Answer #34

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #35

Recommend allowing cross referencing to RFP stated requirements and DOE manuals and publications in the Technical Volume narratives.

Answer #35

Offerors must decide for themselves the level of detail to provide within the page limitation of 125 pages for the technical proposal to address this requirement. The page limit will present the same challenge to all Offerors.

Question/Comment #36

Recommend establishing 25% to 30% of the core contract task performance to be set aside for contracting to small and disadvantaged business concerns, or as a subcontracting requirement for prime contractors.

Answer #36

The solicitation encourages subcontracting to small and small disadvantaged businesses to the greatest extent possible.

Question/Comment #37

Recommend encouraging subcontracting of the core performance tasks to small and disadvantaged companies (as opposed to only equipment, supplies, and minor services) so they may participate and gain relevant past performance and experience for DOE contracts of larger size, scope and complexity such as this one.

Answer #37

See response to Question/Comment #36.

Question/Comment #38Specification or Requirement

The Contractor may need to comply with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission security requirements contained in 10 CFR 73, Physical Protection of Plants and Materials to safeguard the MFFF.

Question/Comment

Does this have any impact on proposal staffing or costing since it refers to an unknown? Wouldn't the specific personnel and training requirements contained in 10 CFR 73 be handled by contract modification implemented post award when services were required?

Answer #38

Offerors should not include plans to safeguard the MFFF in their technical or cost proposals; this work is referenced in Section C to notify Offerors that DOE may include this work in future requirements by modifying the contract when necessary.

Question/Comment #39Specification or Requirement

The protective force will be organized into tactically cohesive units to promote maximum effectiveness in protecting the most valuable Departmental assets from an armed terrorist threat.

Question/Comment

Are the "most valuable Departmental assets" identified by the contractor or DOE?

Answer #39

DOE identifies the most valuable Departmental assets in accordance with DOE Manual 470.4-1, dated 3-7-06. Also, this is a general statement; Offerors should look to more specific statements in Section L for instructions on how to prepare their proposals.

Question/Comment #40Specification or Requirement

Program, utilize, and maintain an extensive inventory of Engagement Simulation Systems (ESS) to conduct realistic training and exercises of the protective force.

Question/Comment

Does the contractor have input into selection of future acquired new systems or are they standardized across DOE?

Answer #40

The Contractor will have input into the selection of future acquired new systems.

Question/Comment #41Specification or Requirement

The Contractor shall provide assistance in all aspects of processing the HSPD-12 packages.

Question/Comment

Will the NASA lawsuit appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals potentially have any impact on this requirement?

Answer #41

The draft solicitation includes the requirement that all contractor employees comply with HSPD-12 Personal Identity Verification (PIV) standards and the Statement of Work requires contractor employees to support HSPD-12 processing for the site. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Nelson v. National Aeronautics and Space Admin.*, ___ F.3d ___, 2008 WL 2468884 (9th Cir. 6/20/08) should have no immediate impact on the solicitation's requirements.

Question/Comment #42Specification or Requirement

The Contractor will be responsible for Service Contract Act and Davis Bacon Act compliance as it applies to small construction project work.

Question/Comment

Is that really a Design/Engineering function? Or does this mean the responsibility for specifying which projects or tasks fall under which compensation act?

Answer #42

This provision intends to put Offerors on notice that they may be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Service Contract Act and Davis Bacon Act for small construction project work. An example of such a project might be redesigning a shooting range.

Question/Comment #43Specification or Requirement

The Contractor shall provide a comprehensive Environmental Compliance and Pollution Prevention Program that ensures compliance with all applicable federal, state, and DOE environmental protection orders and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Question/Comment

Are the requirements in this and following subsections limited to the Security Services task support?

Answer #43

This requirement will generally apply to all activities for which the Contractor will have responsibility. Offerors are responsible themselves for understanding how all of the applicable federal, state, and DOE environmental protection pertain to this requirement and for preparing their technical proposals accordingly.

Question/Comment #44Specification or Requirement

If the Contractor is a joint venture, limited liability company, other similar entity, or a newly formed entity, the Contractor's parent organization(s) or all member organizations shall guarantee performance of the contract as evidenced by the Performance Guarantee Agreement in Section L.

Question/Comment

Is the current contract bonded? Would this requirement be preferential to the incumbent?

Answer #44

This provision is necessary to meet the DOE minimum requirements for the contract. It is not a performance "bond" and is not preferential to the incumbent.

Question/Comment #45Specification or Requirement

Both the DOE and the Small Business Administration (SBA) have established Mentor- Protégé Programs to encourage Federal prime contractors to assist small businesses, firms certified under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act by the SBA, other small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses.

Question/Comment

Does the current contract have any Protégé small disadvantaged or women-owned small businesses subcontracting any security tasks?

Answer #45

This information is available under "Small Business Subcontracting Information for DOE and Wackenhut" in the Documents Library of the Request for Proposals web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs>.

Question/Comment #46Specification or Requirement

The Contractor shall provide a Guarantee of performance from its parent company in the form set forth in the Section J, Attachment H entitled, *Performance Guarantee Agreement*.

Question/Comment

Does this require every company submitting a bid to provide a performance guarantee, including the incumbent if they bid?

Answer #46

All provisions contained in the Request for Proposals will apply to all Offerors, if applicable, including this requirement.

Question/Comment #47Specification or Requirement

The Volume II – Technical Proposal will only be read and evaluated up to the page limitation. Page counting will begin with the first page of the Volume II – Technical Proposal subject to the page limitation. Pages exceeding the page count will not be read or evaluated. No material may be incorporated by reference as a means to circumvent the page limitation.

Question/Comment

The solicitation Statement of Work incorporates hundreds of pages of manuals and specifications by reference. It would seem reasonable to allow incorporating the specifications contained in the Statement of Work references by reference when describing the approach employed in consideration of the page limitations.

Answer #47

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #48Specification or Requirement

Volume II shall not exceed 100 pages; pages that exceed this amount will not be evaluated.

Question/Comment

Volume II is a technical proposal, and as such it would be expected that detail would be required. The draft specifications in the solicitation consume over 285 pages. The specifications by reference encompass hundreds of other pages. With the specified required topics to be covered, little detail will be possible to present for evaluation. Page limitations should be increased or less information be required to be addressed.

Answer #48

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #49Specification or Requirement

The plans and procedures mandate that certain Protective Force activities be performed in particular areas of the site by a specific number of “prescribed” personnel. An Offeror has no flexibility in proposing how these services are performed or the number of personnel performing these activities.

Question/Comment

Excel spreadsheet attachment 4.3 requires total hours by labor category broken down by section C work breakdown structure.

Excel spreadsheet Section L attachment five contains a worksheet labeled overtime, depicting 300,546 hours broken down by position, but not work breakdown structure.

Excel spreadsheet for cost X10000033 requires labor costs be broken down by Section C. work breakdown structure.

Answer #49

Overtime was provided for informational purposes only.

Question/Comment #50Specification or Requirement

An Offeror should not describe its approach to providing Protective Force services pertaining to the above facilities in its technical proposal. Further information concerning prescribed activities is described in Section L.5, entitled "Proposal Preparation Instructions-Volume III: Cost Proposal".

Question/Comment

Table L.1 on page L 20 provides cost to be inserted in price proposal for security police officers SPO's.

Table L.2 on page L 21 provides a breakdown by WBS, but does not include all Statement of Work paragraphs.

Answer #50

The purpose of Table L.2 is to show where the protective force is employed so this table includes only those work breakdown sections of the Statement of Work that employ protective force personnel.

Question/Comment #51Specification or Requirement

Offerors shall describe how they will utilize their workforce in compliance with all directives and requirements specified in Section J, Attachment D to protect SRS assets.

Question/Comment

Section J attachment D lists fourteen code of Federal regulations citations. In addition list B of applicable directives lists 74 publications. The listing alone covers five pages. A detailed description would necessarily include a reference to the directives and requirements, workforce assignments and training required to assure Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities are adequate. The description of how the workforce is "utilized" normally involves staffing charts related to tasks and functions. Such a description could easily cover many pages in order to assure all requirements were addressed even if allowed to incorporate references to the directives and requirements. How much detail is desired?

Answer #51

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #52Specification or Requirement

Additionally, explain the Offeror's plan to integrate Special Operations capability into site protection strategies.

Question/Comment

Where are site protection strategies detailed? Does this conflict with L.4(c)? *An Offeror should not describe its approach to providing Protective Force services pertaining to the above facilities in its technical proposal.*

Answer #52

This language has been removed from the Request for Proposals.

Question/Comment #53Specification or Requirement

Offerors should describe their strategy for Special Nuclear Material (SNM) transportation both on and off the site.

Question/Comment

Table L.2 on page L 21 includes four non-prescribed personnel for this function. How many transports are required, length, duration?

Answer #53

Offerors must address this requirement with the information provided in the Request for Proposals and on the Request for Proposals web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs>.

Question/Comment #54

Specification or Requirement

Offerors shall demonstrate their understanding of maintaining an Aviation Operations consistent with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 135.25.

Question/Comment

Demonstration could mean addressing the FAR Part 135.25 requirements and presenting the methodology proposed to comply. Without incorporating the requirements by reference the demonstration would consume additional proposal space.

Answer #54

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #55

Specification or Requirement

Offerors shall describe their approach to train security personnel in tactical, technical and professional competencies.

Proposals should discuss how Offerors will: identify the knowledge, skills and abilities required by the protective force; maintain these capabilities; and, maintain the necessary professional certifications and required records to train the protective force.

Question/Comment

Training is a critical activity, and to summarize the approach to a training plan that likely exceeds 100 pages requires focus on the trainers, facilities, and subject matter.

The specifications for training are included in the DOE manuals. DOE M 470.4-3 Chapter IV includes 14 pages identifying training program requirements.

Answer #55

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #56

Specification or Requirement

Offerors shall describe their plan for specific site security support and its program for security planning and analysis. The Offeror shall describe its Performance Testing and Safeguards and Security Self- Assessment (S&SSA) Programs.

Question/Comment

Sixty One (61) personnel are identified for this function in table L.2 on page 21. DOE M 470.4-1 devotes 401 pages to the requirements for this program. A description of a plan would be devoid of most detail that might be necessary to determine if it is adequate without reference to the requirements documents, and strict page limitations.

Team member training at NTC and certification to conduct the NTC basic survey course at the Savannah River site or equivalent is important.

Answer #56

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #57Requirement or Specification

Offerors shall describe their approach to executing administrative and other support functions.

Question/Comment

This is a cost-plus-award fee contract. Demonstrated experience and a summary of the methods used is required.

Environmental safety and health plans are detailed and must meet concisely summarized. Citing successful projects where such plans are used is helpful.

Answer #57

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #58Requirement or Specification

The Offeror shall discuss how they intend to track, report, and measure contract costs, schedules and performance.

Question/Comment

This is a massive project with extensive data management. What existing management information systems are provided by the government, or are in use?

Answer #58

Offerors must address this requirement with the information provided in the Request for Proposals and on the Request for Proposals web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs>.

Question/Comment #59Requirement or Specification

The Offeror shall provide the proposed organizational chart for performance of the contract identifying personnel, their functional assignments, and the established lines of authority, responsibility, and communication from lower levels to top-level management.

Question/Comment

A one page chart containing all the details required here would be very busy and difficult to read even on an 11" by 17" page. Multi page charts would be required to chart the various job categories and functional assignments along with significant narrative to identify communication from lower levels to top level management. Page limitations will preclude some of the detail that would help explain the proposed approach in this important area.

Answer #59

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #60Requirement or Specification

The proposal shall identify any parent corporation or other legal entity in an oversight role, describe its role and resource commitments and discuss the Offeror's ability to access corporate management to resolve conflicts over resources not under the program manager's direct control.

Question/Comment

Typically requires a corporate organization chart with the project reporting to the appropriate functional area of the Headquarters with a discussion of interaction.

Answer #60

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #61Requirement or Specification

Additionally, the Offeror shall describe their approach to implementing innovative programs.

Question/Comment

Innovative Programs by the DOE or contractor?

Answer #61

This applies to any functions of the Statement of Work in which the Contractor will have the flexibility to introduce innovations.

Question/Comment #62Requirement or Specification

Offerors shall provide their approach to transition that addresses the assumption of responsibilities from the incumbent contractor.

Question/Comment

The transition plan for this project requires working with the incumbent, while recruiting and verifying the qualifications of 800 plus personnel. The approach must allow for daily progress reviews and projection of accomplishment by contract start. Such a plan is detailed and lists dozens of major task topics and hundreds of subtask items. Describing the approach does not necessarily include the specific plan task details. Is that what is desired for evaluation?

Answer #62

Offerors are asked only to describe their approach to transition.

Question/Comment #63Requirement or Specification

The Offeror shall describe its experience within the last five (5) years in providing security services similar in size, scope and complexity to the requirements discussed in the Statement of Work, including the experience of the Offeror, its predecessor companies, parent or holding companies (if relevant), all teaming participants and any major subcontractors.

Question/Comment

If evaluated directly, this is a very restrictive requirement. Will size, scope and complexity be evaluated on the basis of all the projects performed combined by the proposing entity and any partners, or do the specific projects individually have to qualify?

Answer #63

The Government will consider all corporate experience provided pursuant to the instructions contained in L.4 of the Request for Proposals and, pursuant to M.4 for the Request for Proposals, will evaluate its relevancy based on how similar the projects are in size, scope and complexity to the work contained in the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #64Requirement or Specification

The Key Personnel positions shall include, at a minimum, the individual responsible for the overall contract, and individuals responsible for the following key functions: Protective Force Operations; Special Operations; Training; Security/Safety Operations; and Program Support. Additionally, the Offeror may designate other individuals that are critical to the overall performance of the contract as Key Personnel. The Offeror shall provide its explanation for the designation of Key Personnel positions relative to the approach to the management and execution of the work proposed by the Offeror.

Question/Comment

What are the Key Personnel designated on the current contract?

Does the Government want an explanation for the designation of Key Personnel specified by the Government, or only any additional Key Personnel designated by the Offeror?

Answer #64

The Key Personnel in the current contract are designated in Clause H.21 entitled "Key Personnel (APR 1984)". The current contract is available in the Documents Library on the SRS Protective Force web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs> under "Wackenhut Contract General Information". The Request for Proposals has been revised to state that, at a minimum, the individual responsible for the overall contract shall be designated as "Key". The Government wants an explanation for the designation of all Key Personnel.

Question/Comment #65

Requirement or Specification

The Offeror shall provide the Past Performance Reference Information Form in Attachment 2 to Section L for up to three (3) contracts similar in size, scope and complexity completed or in progress during the past five (5) years for the company. Size is defined as dollar value and duration. Scope is defined as the type of work (e.g., Protective Force, Special Operations, Security/Safety Operations, etc.). Complexity is defined as challenges to successful contract performance.

Question/Comment

The same requirements as experience. Size in \$ value alone eliminates most all past performance from most all other contractors. Can individual contracts be combined for the purposes of size?

Answer #65

The Government will consider all past performance information provided pursuant to the instructions contained in L.4 of the Request for Proposals and, pursuant to M.4 of the Request for Proposals, will evaluate its relevancy based on how similar the projects are in size, scope and complexity to the work contained in the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #66

Requirement or Specification

For example, a proposal will be deemed unacceptable if it does not represent a reasonable initial effort to address itself to the essential requirements of the RFP, or if it clearly demonstrates that the Offeror does not understand the requirements of the RFP. cursory responses or responses which merely repeat or reformulate the Statement of Work will not be considered responsive to the requirements of the RFP.

Question/Comment

The Statement of Work is 29 pages, but the RFP does not list each element to be addressed in Section L. If the "essential elements" are those topics listed in section L, then page limitation of 100 pages presents excessively high proposal risk to Offerors other than the incumbent to adequately address them, since the incumbent can demonstrate current performance of all requirements.

In view of the page limitations and with the Statement of Work alone referencing hundreds of pages of manuals and regulations the proposal risk is excessively high to meet responsiveness as stated in this section.

Answer #66

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #67

Requirement or Specification

Management Approach, Relevant Experience, Past Performance

Question/Comment

Relevant Experience and Past Performance are major parts of the proposal score, but it is almost impossible to meet the currently stated requirements for Offerors other than the incumbent.

Answer #67

DOE will evaluate each proposal for its content and how well it demonstrates the Offeror's understanding and ability to perform the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #68

Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate the thoroughness of the Offeror's demonstrated understanding of utilizing and providing protective forces to adequately execute programs and protect SRS assets pursuant to the directives specified in Section J.

Question/Comment

Very difficult to thoroughly address such a large body of reference material with page limitations.

Answer #68

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #69

Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate how well the proposal demonstrates the Offeror's ability to integrate the special response team requirements into site protection strategies and to provide:

Question/Comment

The Site Safeguards and Security Plan (SSSP) would normally describe the site protection strategies. It would not be expected that the plan would be available to Offerors. Is it? Without knowledge of the site protection strategies, demonstrating the ability to integrate the special response team into them would unfairly favor the incumbent who presumably has the SSSP?

Answer #69

This language has been removed from the Request for Proposals.

Question/Comment #70

Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate the effectiveness of the Offeror's program to plan for, train, and maintain all protective force members at an adequate level of tactical, technical, and professional proficiency ensuring they meet and maintain required qualifications for physical fitness, firearms use, and all other Governmental certifications and position requirements to perform their duties under both normal and emergency conditions. This will include rating the sufficiency of Offeror's plan to manage training records, meet law enforcement qualifications, enhance professional development, and maintain required academic accreditation for its training curriculum. DOE will also evaluate the reasonableness of the Offeror's plan for maintaining effective document control and computer security procedures as they pertain to training records, and the feasibility of the Offeror's approach to providing training for Emergency Response Organizations and Safeguards and Security First Responders.

Question/Comment

Section L asked for an approach, and the evaluation criteria is evaluating a program and a plan for effectiveness? How can you evaluate a program without details?

Answer #70

M.4(b) has been revised to be consistent with Section L.

Question/Comment #71Requirement or Specification

Program will be evaluated for its compliance with applicable DOE directives and the extent to which it supports the site's Personnel Security Activities.

Question/Comment

Without a detailed program to evaluate how can compliance with the applicable DOE directives be evaluated?

Answer #71

This language has been revised as follows to indicate to Offerors that DOE is only requesting that they demonstrate their knowledge of this requirement rather than propose a detailed program:

DOE will also evaluate the Offeror's approach to providing a Performance Testing Program for its demonstrated capability to meet the requirements of applicable DOE directives and ensure high quality personnel security activities.

Question/Comment #72Requirement or Specification

Additionally, DOE will evaluate the effectiveness of the Offeror's property management plan.

Question/Comment

Section L. did not request a property management plan, only a discussion of it. Page limitations would not allow a detailed plan that could be evaluated for effectiveness.

Answer #72

This language has been revised to read as follows in M.4:

Additionally, DOE will evaluate how competently the Offeror will collect and maintain routine records and how effectively it will manage personal property and equipment.

Question/Comment #73Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate how comprehensively and effectively the Offeror's proposed services will support SRS in administering the Protective Force services, how competently the Offeror will collect and maintain routine records, and how effectively it will manage personal property and equipment. DOE will assess how well the Offeror's support functions will result in high quality, low risk, cost effective operations.

Question/Comment

Comprehensive details were not requested and page limit of 100 pages create excessive proposal risk to address the details necessary to support such an evaluation.

Answer #73

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #74Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate the demonstrated capability of the Offeror's environment, Safety, and Health and Integrated Safety Management (ISM) programs to comply with requirements and protect workers, the public, SRS facilities, and the environment.

Question/Comment

A detailed plan is not possible to submit with page limitations to demonstrate that all requirements are addressed.

Answer #74

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #75Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate the level of detail provided for the Offeror's organizational chart and the demonstrated ability of this structure to allocate resources to meet contractual requirements. This will include an analysis of the Offeror's discussion regarding the program manager's role and the demonstrated effectiveness of the program manager in obtaining support from other corporate elements within the Offeror's organizational structure. DOE will also evaluate the level of detail provided in the Offeror's discussion of Key Personnel and how these personnel will be utilized.

Question/Comment

Page limitations limit "level of detail" and increase proposal risk excessively for meeting this evaluation requirement.

Answer #75

See response to Question/Comment #27.

Question/Comment #76Requirement or Specification

DOE will also analyze how effectively the Offeror proposes to coordinate its operations with other site operating contractors and governmental entities to ensure security requirements are met with minimum operational impact. The Offeror's plans to identify innovative programs that are consistent with best practices will be rated.

Question/Comment

How much freedom does the contractor have to "innovate" when the nature of the service is specifically defined by hundreds of pages of manuals and regulations defining methodology and practices?

Answer #76

DOE is required to balance its interest in innovation with the high level of security required for the SRS. The requirements contained in the applicable manuals and regulations present the same challenges to all Offerors. Offerors must familiarize themselves with all applicable manuals and regulations to the extent that they feel is necessary to prepare a proposal.

Question/Comment #77Requirement or Specification

Evaluation of this subfactor will focus on projects that are recent (within 5 years) and similar in size, scope, and complexity to that discussed in the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment

If evaluated directly, this is a very restrictive requirement. Will size, scope and complexity be evaluated on the basis of all the projects performed combined by the proposing entity and any partners, or do the specific projects individually have to qualify?

Answer #77

DOE will evaluate the Offeror and its teaming partners' overall level of experience, giving more consideration to those projects most relevant to the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #78Requirement or Specification

The Key Personnel proposed by the Offeror and its teaming partners, if any, will be evaluated in the following areas:

a. Experience on work similar to that described in the Statement of Work;

Question/Comment

Will size, scope, and complexity be a factor in personnel experience?

Answer #78

The Key Personnel technical evaluation factor has been revised in Section M to indicate that the Government will evaluate the extent to which the work performed by the proposed Key Personnel is similar in size, scope, and complexity to that described in the Statement of Work.

Question/Comment #79

Requirement or Specification

DOE will evaluate the Offeror's (including teaming partners, LLC members, and major subcontractors) relevant past performance on contracts similar in size, scope and complexity to determine the degree to which it demonstrates the Offeror's ability to successfully perform the Statement of Work.

The Government will consider in its evaluation the relevance and similarity of the Offeror's past performance information, the Offeror's written discussion of past performance problems, and the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to resolve those problems. DOE will evaluate the past performance of the Offeror, its teaming partners, and major subcontractors commensurate with the portion of work being performed by each entity.

In the case of an Offeror without a record of relevant past performance or for whom information on relevant past performance is not available, the Offeror will be evaluated neither favorably nor unfavorably on past performance. To the extent that the Offeror's history with SDB concerns is identified or known, the Government will consider the Offeror's past compliance with subcontracting plan goals for SDB concerns and monetary targets for SDB participation. During its evaluation, the Government will review all the past performance information submitted by the Offeror, may contact some or all of the references provided by the Offeror, and may solicit past performance information from other available sources. These include Federal Government electronic databases, readily available government records (including pertinent prime contracts), and sources other than those identified by the Offeror.

Question/Comment

Will there be an allocation of points in the past performance evaluation process?

Answer #79

DOE will evaluate the Offeror and its teaming partners' overall past performance, giving more consideration to those projects most relevant to the Statement of Work based on size, scope and complexity.

Question/Comment #80

Requirement or Specification

An unrealistic, unreasonable, or incomplete cost proposal may be evidence of the Offeror's lack of, or poor understanding of, the requirements of the solicitation and thus may adversely affect the Offeror's rating on the Technical and Management Proposal criteria.

Comment or Question

This requirement is unusual that costing would impact the Technical and Management Proposal rating. Such a requirement presents excessive proposal risk for Offerors other than the incumbent and double jeopardy.

Answer #80

See response to Question/Comment #31.

Question/Comment #81

Is it the DOE's intent that all indirect support functions for this contract be provided onsite?

Answer #81

See response to Question/Comment #6.

Question/Comment #82Requirement or Specification

The Offeror shall provide information on accidents with injuries and/or fatalities that have occurred within the last five (5) years while the Offeror ...and/or its major subcontractors were responsible for providing security services. Major subcontractors are those with the top three highest proposed dollar values for this contract.

Question #1: Larger companies will be disproportionately affected by this requirement in regards to page count, especially with the narrative required for each incident. Please clarify requirement.

Question #2: If an Offeror used multiple small business suppliers but no subcontractors, and did not subcontract any area of work to another company, then is it correct that data for only the Offeror is required?

Recommendation: In lieu of L.4.(5), have Offerors to complete an ESH&Q Past Performance Indicators worksheet to be attached to Section L. This worksheet would not counted against the page count limitations of the solicitation. The following is a sample that could be modified (elimination of Environmental questions) for this solicitation.

Answer #82

Question #1: The solicitation has been revised to indicate that this information will not be included in the page count. In addition, Attachment 10 to Section L entitled "Worker Safety and Health Past Performance Form" has been added to the solicitation.

Question#2: Offerors shall respond to this requirement consistent with the instructions in the Request for Proposals. DOE may confirm the accuracy of an Offeror's response and assign a proposal a weakness if it omits significant events.

Recommendation: This section intends to measure the level of Offerors' exposure to and understanding of this particular requirement rather than the quality of Offerors' past performance in meeting it. The Past Performance indicators worksheet would allow DOE to assess only the quality of Offerors' performance and would not necessarily allow for a thorough evaluation of understanding.

Question/Comment #83

Requirement or Specification: H.8 Employee Compensation: Pay And Benefits; (f) Pension and Other Benefit Programs, page H-5: "(3)(A) An Employee Benefits Value Study (Ben-Val), every two years..." "(3)(B) An Employee Benefits Cost Study Comparison, annually..."

Question: Is it correct that the proposal will serve as the baseline and then each study (A and B above) will be performed at 24 months and 12 months, respectively, thereafter?

Answer #83

An offeror's proposal will not serve as the baseline for these studies. As the H.8 clause states, the "Employee Benefits Value Study (Ben-Val), . . .is an actuarial study of the relative value (RV) of the benefits programs offered by the Contractor . . . measured against the RV of benefit programs offered by comparator companies" Thus, it does not compare a contractor's paid benefits to its proposed or prior paid benefits. An Employee Benefits Cost Study Comparison, "analyzes the Contractor's employee benefits cost . . . and compares it with the cost reported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Annual Employee Benefits Cost Survey or other Contracting Officer approved broad based national survey." This study compares actual benefits costs with the results of an approved national survey of annual employee benefits. The awardee will be expected to submit the Ben-Val within 24 months after transition and the Employee Benefits Cost

Study Comparison within 12 months after transition, or at such other time, after award, that the Contracting Officer will decide is appropriate.

Question/Comment #84

The tour that was provided did not afford us any information as to the current structure and employment of the non-prescribed pro-force, their duty locations, or work load. We would appreciate the opportunity to view the items listed below during the next site tour:

- Helicopter operations and maintenance
- Protective force training facilities
- Protective force K-9 facilities
- Protective force central and secondary alarm stations
- Protective force administrative support facilities

Answer #84

See response to Question/Comment #22.

Question/Comment #85

Would you provide us with additional information as to the historical workload required for each of the following functions?

- Maintenance of ground vehicles, helicopters, weapons, target systems, radios, range towers and loudspeakers
- Maintenance of Central Alarm Stations
- Control, distribution (movement) and storage of ammunition and explosives
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal team workload
- Environmental, Safety and Health functions – are any services provided by the M&O contractor
- Performance Testing and Quality Control
- Public Affairs and information release to the media
- Project Management Control of Construction
- Locksmith services – details as to what is provided and how often
- Protective Force training both weapons and tactical – numbers of weapons, numbers of armories, location of armories
- Administrative functions such as Accounting, Contracting, Human Resources, Secretarial Support
- Number of daily guard-mounts and locations
- Number of physical fitness instructors and locations

Answer #85

The General Site Security Plan (GSSP) will be made available to interested parties by following the instructions in the Requesting Sensitive Data section of the web site at <http://www.emcbc.doe.gov/srs>. This document contains details regarding various functions in the Statement of Work including workloads. In addition, a more detailed site tour will be conducted after the release of the final Request for Proposals. The Government believes that sufficient information will be available to all Offerors to prepare competitive proposals.

Question/Comment #86

Is DOE open to revising Section C to reflect the additional security functions as follows?

- Physical Security
- Administrative Security (Badging, Security Education, Human Reliability Program, Information Security, OPSEC, Classified Matter Protection and Control, Classification Program, Foreign National Visits and Assignments, etc)
- Technical Security
- Safeguards (Material Control and Accountability, IAEA, HQ Support, etc)

- Safeguards and Security Planning
- Risk Analysis and Vulnerability Assessments

Answer #86

No additional scope will be added to the Statement of Work. The Statement of Work that will be included in the final Request for Proposals best addresses the needs of the Savannah River Site.

Question/Comment #87

Would you provide the current incumbent organization chart?

Answer #87

The organization chart of the incumbent contractor will not be provided. Having Offerors propose their own organizational structures in response to the Business Approach evaluation factor will afford the Government the best opportunity to assess their understanding of and capability to meet the requirements of the Statement of Work.